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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,880	07/27/2001	Hugh Semple Munro	27020/37611	8935

7590 11/22/2002

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EXAMINER

DI NOLA BARON, LILIANA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1615

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/916,880	MUNRO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Liliana Di Nola-Baron	1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-18 and 48-50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 19-47 and 51 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 19-47 and 51, in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged. Claims 1-18 and 48-50 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 19, 21-47 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Regarding claims 19, 21-47 and 51, the phrase "other than water" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "other than water"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

5. Claim 51 provides for the use of a bioadhesive composition, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

6. Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 19-47 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietz et al. (WO 95/20634 or WO 97/05171).

The claimed invention is directed to bioadhesive compositions.

Dietz et al. provides a pressure sensitive adhesive polymerization product of a microemulsion having an aqueous phase and an oil phase, said microemulsion comprising 2-60% of water, 2-90% of hydrophilic monomer, 5-85% of hydrophobic monomer, 2-70% of a surfactant selected from the groups of nonionic, cationic and anionic surfactants, and optionally plasticizers and tackifiers, and teaches that the product of the invention has a bicontinuous structure (See pp. 7-9).

Dietz et al. includes 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and N,N-dimethylacrylamide among the polar monomers used in the invention, glycerin and polyalkylene

glycols among the water-soluble additives used as plasticizers, n-butyl acrylate as preferred hydrophobic monomer, and styrene and vinyl esters, such as vinyl acetate, among the comonomers in the organic phase (See pp.15-19). Dietz et al. teaches that the oil phase may comprise oil-soluble additives and includes Pluronic, which includes ethylene oxide-propylene oxide block copolymers, among the surfactants used in the invention (See pp. 22-24). Both references teach that the polymerized microemulsions may be used as biomedical electrodes (See p. 34 in WO 95/20634 and p. 36 in WO 97/05171).

Thus, Dietz et al. discloses bioadhesive compositions comprising the ingredients claimed in the instant application. Dietz et al. is deficient in the fact, that it does not specifically mention poly(maleic acid-styrene), however, it contemplates the presence of styrene comonomers in the oil phase of the composition.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teachings of Dietz et al. to provide bioadhesive compositions suitable for medical applications. The expected result would have been a successful bioadhesive composition for use in a biomedical skin electrode or in a wound dressing. Because of the teachings of Dietz et al., that polymerized biphasic emulsion can be used to produce medical bioadhesive compositions, one of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation that the compositions claimed in the instant application would be successful. Therefore the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

U.S. Patent 5,993,840 is cited as reference of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liliana Di Nola-Baron whose telephone number is 703-308-8318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 5:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on 703-308-2927. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3592 for regular communications and 703-305-3592 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1234/ 1235.



November 20, 2002



THURMAN K. PAGE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600